

- 90 AT A MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE held at Lake District National Park Offices, Murley Moss, Kendal on 11th December 2012

PRESENT – MEMBERS

R. Graham	(Chairman)	MMO (Fishing Industry - Cumbria)
J. Butler		MMO (Shellfish)
J. A. Clark		MMO (Marine Science)
B. Crawford		MMO (Anglers and Recreation)
W. Darbyshire		Environment Agency (Officer)
C. Frid		MMO (Marine Science)
T. Jones		MMO (Aquaculture)
C. Lumb		Natural England (Officer)
C. J. Woods		MMO (Shellfish)

OFFICERS

S. Atkins	A. Lindop
M. Knott	H. Ake
A. Leadbeater	J. Moulton
M. Burdekin	

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Dobson	MMO (Anglers and Recreation)
L. Talbot	Environment Agency Officer
R. Benson	MMO (Shellfish)

APOLOGIES

M.R. Owen

- 91 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1)

The Chairman announced Apologies for Absence and welcomed members

- 92 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS (Agenda Item 2)

Agenda Item 5. Cockle Transplant Trials. Mrs J. Butler.
Agenda Item 6. Dee Cockles and Mussels. Mr T. Jones, Mr C. Woods.
Agenda Item 7. Foulney Mussels. Mrs J. Butler.
Agenda Item 8. Razor Clam Development. Prof. C. Frid, Mr T. Jones.
Agenda Item 9. Liverpool University Fisheries Sustainability Research. Prof. C. Frid.

- 93 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2012 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Technical, Science and Byelaws Sub-Committee meeting held on 28th September be approved and signed as a correct record.

- 94 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

There were no matters arising

- 95 COCKLE TRANSPLANT TRIALS (Agenda Item 5)

A report on cockle transplant trials was presented to the sub-committee. This summarised the proposals to proceed with trials and outlined details for transplanting in the Ribble,

Morecambe Bay and at Ravenglass. A DVD produced by the transplant operators demonstrating the transplanting techniques and machinery was also shown.

Members voiced support for the proposals, adding that the IFCA should also use the opportunity to develop an experimental methodology to obtain as much useful data from the trials as possible at the same time as supporting the operators.

It was pointed out that timescales are tight and that impact assessments would need to be carried out by mid-late January and also that robust mortality data would need to be collected.

The question of who will own the transplanted cockles was raised. Those that are in the public fishery (Morecambe Bay and Penfold Channel), will be for the public, whilst Ravenglass is private land and would be available only to the owners. The MBHFO would be looking towards Several Orders.

RESOLVED

1. The report be received.
2. The TSB approve the proposal to proceed with a further trial of cockle transplantation on the Penfold Channel in January following the closure of the commercial fishery.
3. The TSB approve the proposal to proceed with a trial of transplanting cockle spat from the Penfold Channel to beds in Morecambe Bay (Leven Island/Flookburgh and Aldingham/Newbiggin) and Ravensglass.

96 DEE COCKLES AND MUSSELS (Agenda Item 6)

A paper on the management of the Dee Estuary was presented to the sub-committee. The report gave an overview of variety of issues in the Dee Estuary that need to be considered for good fisheries management, including proposals for liaison with key authorities within the area.

There is currently some confusion over byelaws. EA Wales enforce a ban on quads for the cockle fishery, unless written permission has been given, which isn't something we have any sanction over, but they want the IFCA to keep it in consideration when making decisions. It was suggested that the primary fishery in the Estuary is the cockle fishery, and quad bikes used in the mussel fishery are the biggest threat to the cockle fishery as the areas around the mussels beds are covered with young cockles and many are crushed. The Local Authority also wants the IFCA to consider the access points

There was general agreement that IFCA officers should pursue a meeting with other actors in the Dee Estuary to discuss joined-up management, including the new Natural Resources Wales body. Fishermen should also be included, making sure it is the local permit holders, not the migratory ones.

RESOLVED

1. The report be received.
2. Officers should liaise with key authorities within the Dee Estuary to discuss ideas for future management, including byelaws, access, best practice approaches to fisheries, data and knowledge sharing and enforcement.
3. Consultation be held with stakeholders on management proposals for the West Kirby mussel bed.

97 FOULNEY MUSSELS (Agenda Item 7)

A report was presented on the removal of undersize and seed mussel from Foulney Twist. The report summarised the arguments both for and against authorizing the hand gathering of undersize and seed mussel, as well as recommending delegated powers from the Authority to Officers to authorise hand gathering across defined beds in Morecambe Bay when stocks are available.

There were concerns over access and where parking and tonning up would occur, as the access point is on a straight road with a 50mph limit.

There was also concern over food availability for birds. One of the mitigations in the HRA for authorising seed mussel dredging was the availability of mussel on Foulney Twist. This would be a problem in any assessment done for authorisation of hand gathering.

Granting of delegated powers was supported. It was suggested that a framework of guidance be provided by the committee so officers are clear how to use their powers, and that the powers are full, so that email approval from the committee is not necessary.

RESOLVED

1. The report be received.
2. Delegated powers are to be granted, whilst the authorisation of hand-gathering on Foulney Twist is put on hold for now.

98 RAZOR CLAM DEVELOPMENT (Agenda Item 8)

A report updating the committee on the progress of the razor clam fishery development was presented.

The question was raised about whether there will be any cost recovery, as operators are concerned over the significant financial outlay. However, it was pointed out that the MMO won't give an answer until they've seen the full proposal.

Clarification was given that the fishery proposal is for a 5 year trial package. This would give a 5 year dispensation from the MMO, which would give operators some assurance about their commitment in a partnership with the IFCA, knowing that their catch would be sold, as well as providing long term data sets.

RESOLVED

The report was received.

99 LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY FISHERIES SUSTANABILITY RESEARCH (Agenda Item 9)

PhD student Sophia Kochalski gave a presentation outlining her project on the 'Sustainability of Inshore Ecosystems', which the IFCA is one of the supporting partners of. Slides of the presentation are available in Appendix 1.

The presentation was well received by the TSB and it was suggested that there was opportunity for the project to link up with the IFCA's planned fishermen's meetings around the district to do stakeholder consultations.

The stakeholder consultation meetings would be important given that the interpretation of "sustainability" can mean different things to fishermen and that of conservationists.

Regular reporting was also requested by the committee, through the NWIFCA newsletter and at meetings.

100 A.O.B. (Agenda Item 10)

There was no further business to discuss. The Chairman closed the meeting at 1600 hours.

Appendix 1: Sophia Kochalski's Presentation (Agenda Item 9)

1.



Sustainable inshore ecosystems

Developing an evidence based assessment toolbox

PhD student: Sophia Kochalski
Supervisor: Prof. Chris Frid

2.

Centre for global Eco-innovation

European Regional Development Fund
University of Liverpool & Lancaster University
50 regional SME-business
Total funding: £521million

↓

50 projects starting 10/2012

↓

Improved environmental products and services
Contribution to the Northwest's economy

3.

Partners



Scientific expertise	Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies
Academic supervisor	Expertise on sustainable fisheries assessments (e.g. MSC Welsh cockle fishery)
Study/work resources	



Data
Expertise on management and fisheries
Contact to stakeholders

4.

Why this project?



Legal requirements: Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Art. 153 (2):

The authority for an IFC district must seek

a) to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out **in a sustainable way**

b) to **balance the social and economic benefits** of exploiting the sea fisheries resources

5.

Why this project?

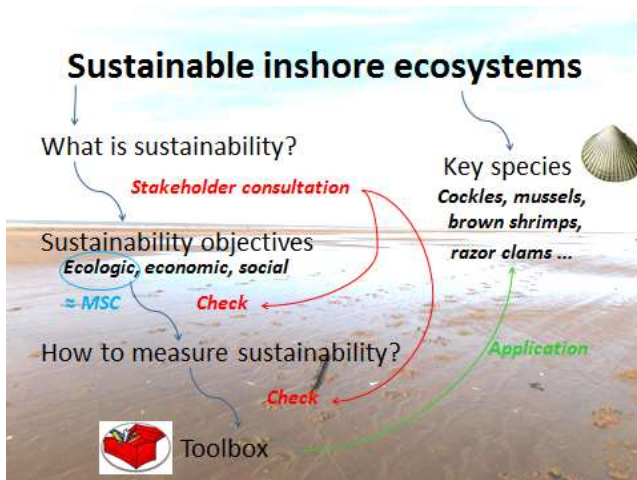
- High economic value of inshore fisheries
- Improve scientific knowledge on key species
- Inclusion of economic/social aspects
- Basis for sustainable management
- Dialog between administration, fishermen, conservationists, consultants, science, ...
- Opening the door for eco-certification
- Innovative scientific approach

6.

What is the project about?



7.



8.

